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Economic and Social Council

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27 and 28 April 2005
Agenda item 4
Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

Election of a member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In a letter dated 24 January 2005, Mrs. Chokila Iyer, a national of India and member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, notified the Secretary-General, through the Chairperson of the Committee, of her decision to resign her membership in the Committee as from 25 January 2005. The term of office of Mrs. Iyer was due to expire on 31 December 2006.

2. In a note verbale dated 28 January 2005, the Secretary-General informed the States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from the regional group of Asian States of Mrs. Iyer's resignation and, in accordance with paragraphs (b) and (c) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985 and rule 12 of the provisional rules of procedures of the Committee, invited the Governments concerned to submit, by 28 March 2005 at the latest, their nominations for membership in the Committee to fill the vacancy in the Committee for the remainder of the term of office of the resigning member.

3. As of 7 March 2005, the Secretary-General had received the nomination of Ms. Arundhati Ghose, submitted by the Government of India. Biographical information on Ms. Ghose is contained below.

4. In a letter dated 28 February 2005, the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations, as Coordinator of the regional group of Asian States, informed the Economic and Social Council that it supported the candidature of Ms. Ghose to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Iyer.

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Arundhati Ghose (India)

Postgraduate in English literature

Joined the Indian Foreign Service in June 1963

During her long and distinguished diplomatic career, handled various assignments in India's diplomatic missions in Austria, the Netherlands, Bangladesh, New York and Belgium

Other diplomatic assignments

India's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (November 1982-August 1985)

India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris (February 1986-November 1988)

India's Ambassador to Egypt (August 1992-July 1995)

India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and the Conference on Disarmament (from July 1995 until her retirement from the Indian Foreign Service in November 1997)

In charge of economic relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, during 1990-1992

Appointed member of the Union Public Service Commission, the apex federal Constitutional body in India for recruitment to civil services, on 3 September 1998 for a six-year term

Associate of National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore; also Chairman of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

Among other positions held are memberships of Executive Council of Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSA) and Pugwash India. Also a member of the editorial boards of *Fault Lines* and *Disarmament Times*

Languages: speaks German, Dutch and French